

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A recording medium discharge mechanism provided with a discharge space that is positioned between an original capturing portion arranged in a device upper portion and a feeding portion arranged in a device lower portion and that opens laterally to a downstream side in a recording medium discharge direction,

wherein a side wall member is arranged at an open portion of the downstream side in the recording medium discharge direction, and

the side wall member is arranged to be capable of moving between an upright state that closes the open portion and a laid flat state in which a placement surface for placing a discharged recording medium is extended toward the downstream side in the recording medium discharge direction.

2. (Original) The recording medium discharge mechanism according to claim 1,

wherein the recording medium placement surface, which is a bottom surface of the discharge space, is set such that a discharge direction length thereof is shorter than a discharge direction length of a largest recording medium among a plurality of types of recording media used in an image forming apparatus.

3. (Currently Amended) The recording medium discharge mechanism according to claim 1-~~or claim 2~~,

wherein the side wall member is configured such that when a recording medium has been discharged to the discharge space in the upright state that closes the open portion, the upright state changes to the laid flat state only upon receiving an external force from the recording medium.

4. (Currently Amended) The recording medium discharge mechanism according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~,

wherein the side wall member is configured to go into the laid flat state prior to a discharge operation of a recording medium only when a discharge direction length dimension of the recording medium to undergo image formation in an image-forming portion is longer than a length of a recording medium placement surface of the discharge space.

5. (Currently Amended) The recording medium discharge mechanism according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, which is configured such that, when a recording medium discharge direction length dimension of a recording medium placement surface of the discharge space is given as L1, a discharge direction length dimension of a largest recording medium among a plurality of types of recording media used in an image forming apparatus is given as L2, and an extension length dimension toward a downstream side in the recording medium discharge direction when the side wall member has been put into the laid flat state is given as L3,

$$L3 \leq L2 - L1 \quad \cdots (1).$$

6. (Currently Amended) The recording medium discharge mechanism according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~,
wherein the side wall member is structured using a transparent member or a semitransparent member.

7. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising the recording medium discharge mechanism according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 6~~, an original capturing portion arranged at an upper portion of the recording medium discharge mechanism, and a feeding portion arranged at a lower portion of the recording medium discharge mechanism.